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New leader of world's Anglicans is enthroned



CANTERBURY, United Kingdom (AFP) - The new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, was enthroned yesterday, taking over the leadership of 80 million Anglicans worldwide in a service enlivened by African dancers and in which a woman archdeacon played a key role.

Welby, a 57-year-old former oil executive, was formally sworn in as head of the Church of England in front of 2,000 guests at Canterbury Cathedral including Prime Minister David Cameron and heir to the throne Prince

Charles.

The service included other unusual touches, with a hymn set to a Punjabi melody and drummers and dancers filled the cathedral with a thunderous rhythm either side of Welby's reading from the gospel.

For the first time in history, a woman enthroned the archbishop. The Venerable Sheila Watson, Archdeacon of Canterbury, played an integral role in the service which marks the formal start of Welby's ministry as he takes over from Rowan Williams.

Continued on page 6

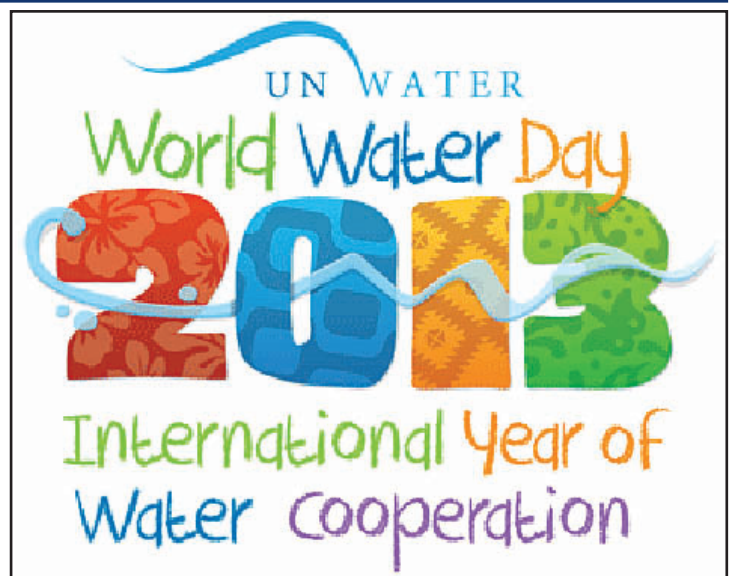
WEB intent on contributing to new water legislation

TODAY, March 22, we celebrate World Day of Water for the 20th year. The theme proclaimed by the United Nation for 2013 is: "Cooperation on the area of Water." With this theme, the UN wants to emphasize how important it is for nations to work together to guarantee that there is sufficient water for all communities around the world, and also to produce potable water in a sustainable manner.

This theme certainly fits in with WEB's corporate strategy, according to Asje Dongen, public relations spokesperson for WEB. With 80 years of experience in the desalinization of water, WEB has been supportive in the Caribbean region of the development of the production of water in a most efficient and sustainable manner. In the light of the theme of cooperation, WEB Aruba N.V. wants to offer their support to the government of Aruba in the formalization of a water legislation. WEB wants to make her expertise available to arrive at a so-called "Waterwet" (Law on water). They have already established the first contacts with the Ministers concerned.

Although Aruba has a track record of 80 years producing potable water, the reality is there is no formal law on water in Aruba. The rapid development of our island, where sustainability has played an important role, makes a law to regulate the cycle of water very important. Consumers, companies and users are exploring all opportunities to safeguard the environment, as well as for efficiency. This will result in different types of water, alongside of the water we drink.

WEB sees this as a positive development, one that can contribute to preserve our environment. One element of this, however, is that we must be able to guarantee the quality of our water and guarantee its im-



tention of Minister of the Environment, Benny Sevinger. Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, Otmar Oduber and Minister of Utilities and Energy, Mike De Meza. WEB desires to contribute in the form of a work group with representatives of different services of the government and in this manner come up with a legislation of water for Aruba.

On this World Water Day, management of WEB wants to thank the people of Aruba for their continued support and confidence. WEB also wants to express gratitude to their employees for their motivation and efforts to provide our community with the very best quality of water in the world.

pact on our health. For this reason WEB Aruba wants to lend their support to the government of Aruba to arrive at a legislation of the cycle of water. Management of WEB has brought this topic to the at-



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Norman and Lois Beaulieu



Masiduri dancers with Caha di Orgel

Newly arrived visitors may have missed Aruba's March 18 celebrations, but they can be treated to a weekly revisit to these ebullient festivities with The Mill Resort's regular Saturday evening Arubiana night. Inaugurated on

the holiday weekend, the festive evening offers authentic local entertainment and a buffet of criollo dishes to introduce guests to island cuisine and culture.

Norman and Lois Beaulieu, regular visitors to the Mill Resort, gave a big thumbs up to the ambiance around the pool and bar, as well as the extensive buffet for only \$25. Patrons enjoy all the Fresh Grouper Aruban Style, Keshi Yena and Carne Stoba they could eat, accompanied by traditional side dishes of funchi and pan bati, as well as a very complete salad bar.

Entertainment continues through the night with a dance show from the Masiduri Folkloric Dance Group accompanied on the Caha di Orgel. This instrument enjoys a dedicated following of musicians on Aruba who take enormous pride in building their own street organs and devising the complex drums that produce the music.

Saturdays at The Mill Resort in Palm Beach now provide a delightful "Taste of Aruba" under the stars in the surroundings of their beautifully landscaped pool deck. Aruba flag shirts are optional but welcome!

Rosalie Klein

Honoring at RBC Royal Bank (ARUBA) N.V.



Recently the RBC Royal Bank (Aruba) N.V. had three honorees who celebrated 12 and half years in service. They are Mr. Ferdinand "Andy" Curiel, Mrs. Joseth Marian Franken and Mr. Richard Vries. Photo depicts the jubilees accompanied by their respective department managers. RBC Royal Bank congratulates and wishes the honorees further success in their careers.

Montessori School turns five

On Friday, March 16th, Beautiful Sun Montessori School celebrated it's fifth year in operation. The event was commemorated with a happy evening that brought together the whole school community.

The school's students came accompanied by their parents, grandparents and siblings for a night of singing followed by a meal outdoors in the cozily lit school garden. The event

brought together families of 13 different nationalities and customs under the bonding spell of shared music.

Beautiful Sun was founded in 2008 and is Aruba's first dedicated Montessori school serving children 3-6 years old following the strict guidelines of the Association Montessori International (AMI).

Continued on page 3

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Free Health Fair tomorrow at Xavier School of Medicine



The Student Government Association of Xavier School of Medicine, would like to invite the citizens of Aruba to come join in their free health fair. The health fair is open to everyone, old and young; infant and elderly.

The health fair is to commence at 8 am on Saturday, March 23rd, 2013 until noon. Refreshments will be served for the participants. This event is Xavier's of giving back to the community for allowing foreign students to be a part of their nation. They have enjoyed, for several years, the pleasures of living on such a beautiful island, and would like to repay back somehow.

This health fair is conducted every 4 months, and is absolutely free. Within the health fair the students are offering free testing for cholesterol, blood pressure, blood

glucose, hearing tests, vision tests, BMI, and for the first time, EKG as well. An EKG is a test that checks for problems with the electrical activity of your heart. This test will be granted for free to those individuals who are at high risk. Furthermore, they will provide consultations to ensure the well being of the citizens of Aruba by our qualified M.D. 4 students.

The location of the event is at the school itself. The school is located by the Wendy's roundabout on LG Smith Blvd. If you continue towards Ponton, on the right you will see a bright orange building, waving the Aruban flag, high and bright.

"We hope to see you there and that you will take advantage of this free event," a spokesperson says.

Government and ELMAR NV agree to install lighting in Barrios

Last Tuesday morning at the home of the Deluvio family in Sabana Grandi, NV Elmar and the government of Aruba signed a protocol in which they agree that our national electricity distribution company (Elmar NV), will install more light poles for illumination in different Barrios around the island. Sabana Grandi is one of the Barrios which will receive more illumination in the upcoming weeks. The new illumination will be based on the modern LED technology, which is also more efficient in the use of electricity.

Elmar NV Director, Ing. Robert Henriquez explained how they will install the LED lights that Elmar has in stock and how the community will notice an intensified action in the upcoming weeks ahead.

Henriquez indicated that Elmar is pleased to be the one to introduce this new technology and that more and more this will become evident in the community. Elmar is intent on continuing their lead as an example of new innovations.

They expressed appreciation to the work crew in charge of public illumination. They have done an excellent job of the



planning and selection of the Barrios most in need of illumination.

Present for the signing of the protocol were: Prime Minister Eman, Minister of Infrastructure Benny Sevinger and Minister of Justice Arthur Dowers. Elmar is in charge of street illumination and together with the

government delineates the Barrios with priority based on the development of housing. This is in an effort to promote security and to raise the quality of life of our citizens. The installation of LED lights will provide for much better illumination and will increase the visibility of traffic as well.

Montessori School turns five

Continued from page 2



It offers a child centered environment that respectfully nurtures the creativity and learning spirit of each individual child. Children are taught concepts in math, language, science, art, music, geography, and zoology all

through concrete hands on materials. Developing positive socialization for the children and creating a sense of community among the children and families is at the core of the school's commitment.

We'd like to wish the Beautiful Sun Montessori School a happy birthday and many more!

For more information, please visit www.montessori-aruba.com



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AAR, the Association of Aruba Realtors is a reality



On February 27, 2013, the first members' meeting of the Association of Aruban Realtors (to be referred to as AAR hereinafter) took place.

After the formal establishment in May 2012, many preparations were made by the initiators in order to lay the foundation for a professional realtors' association in accordance with the Dutch model. After the AAR had been established, all active realtors in Aruba were approached to become members of the association. We can proudly announce that the following 14 real estate offices have currently registered as members of the AAR: Century 21 Best & Solid Real Estate, Aruba Living Today, Solito ERA, Alto Vista Real Estate, Prima Casa Real Estate, Coldwell Banker, Sotheby's, MPG Real Estate, Aruba Happy Rentals, Aruba Palm Realtors, Top Homes, Limbo Aruba, and Remax.

Most real estate offices attended the first members' meeting. After the formal part, notarial office R.E. Yarzagaray, represented by its employee Ms. Petra Seyfarth and civil law notary Ralph Yarzagaray, gave the

members present a seminar on Compliance and the Law; National Ordinance prevention and suppression of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (LWTF) and the consequences hereof for the realtors and the notarial profession in Aruba. Subsequently, it was Power Systems' turn, on behalf of which company Mr. Marcel van Schie and Mr. Joost Horward gave a presentation for a listing website for the AAR to be newly introduced.

The purpose of the AAR is to improve the mutual collaboration between the real estate offices in Aruba. It also pursues raising the standard of the local real estate business in general to a higher level. Ultimately with the result to be able to provide buyers and sellers of real estate in Aruba better service and in addition the AAR can act as discussion partner on behalf of the local real estate business towards the Central Bank, local commercial banks, the Collector of Taxes, the Office for the Disclosure of Unusual Transactions, etc.

Photo shows several members receiving their membership certificates.

Fusion Restaurant introduces a great selection of main dishes and delicious tapas



When friends come together to socialize over a few cocktails they often find such a pleasant evening will be enhanced by some tasty snacks, as hunger sets in. Fusion Lounge at the Alhambra Casino & Shops has the perfect menu to satisfy that craving.

Fusion is an ultra modern jazz and cigar lounge; charming place for unique, elegant and great-tasting cocktails and fine wine by the glass. It has become a hot spot on the island. Recently, Fusion created a delicious menu for quick



served foods and main dishes as well as a variation of tasty tapas, hot or cold, which are

available at any time during the night.

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Fusion Restaurant introduces...

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Executive French Chef Gerard Coste created a menu especially for those night owls, offering hot Onion Soup, cold Caesar Salad, crispy Fish & Chips and a mouthwatering Veal Milanese. Heartier appetites can enjoy a classic US Rib Eye Steak, generous portions of vegetarian lasagna, and Spanish Paella, all prepared "a la minute" and served with fries, various sauces and appealing side dishes.

Those wishing to just snack on something light can choose from the hot or cold tapas menu which includes Salmon Bruschetta, Asiatic style Shrimp Cocktail, a Cheese or Prosciutto platter, Charcuterie plate with a great variation of Italian meats, creamy Mediterranean dips such as hummus, tzaziki and olive tapenade: all served with pieces of pita fresh from the oven or mini baguettes. In the hot tapas, one can choose from vineyard snails, mini Chorizos, Southwest Eggrolls, Quesadillas, Garlic Shrimp, Tomato and Basilicum, Beef Churrasco with Chimichurri or a snack platter consisting of a diverse selection of tapas.

Fusion has something for everyone. In the mood for something sweet? Have a Chocolate Brownie sundae with vanilla ice-cream and garnishes, among several sweet treat choices.

Fusion has a great ambiance; with this exciting new menu clients can now relax and stay a little longer. Enjoy live music or select a fresh cigar picked from the walk in humidior, while sipping champagne or a fine vintage wine. The complete bar carries the best brands of liquors for great mixed drinks. Savor your favorite flavor of beverage with a complete fusion between of fine food, wine and spirits while enjoying this chic lounge, a great spot to relax and spend some "down time" with friends.



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Poll: Six in 10 Americans support citizenship path for illegals

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Nearly two-thirds of Americans favor a path to citizenship -- with conditions -- for undocumented immigrants, according to a new poll out yesterday, as lawmakers debate reform plans.

Lawmakers from both sides of the US political divide, as well as President Barack Obama, have ex-

pressed optimism about striking a deal on immigration reform in 2013, but a potential pathway to citizenship remains a hurdle.

In a poll of 4,500 people by the Public Religion Research Institute and the Brookings Institution, 63 percent said that the 11 million people living in the US illegally should be allowed to

become citizens.

That was three times as high as the 21 percent who thought they should be found and deported. Another 14 percent said illegal immigrants should be allowed to get permanent resident status.

Even among conservative Republicans, a majority, 53 percent, were in favor of allowing the possibility of citi-

zenship. That figure was higher, 71 percent, among Democrats.

Currently, a legal immigrant can generally seek to become a citizen after living in the US for five years.

The poll also reflected significant racial divisions in perceptions of the impact of demographic and cultural changes in the US since the

1950s, with 61 percent of whites saying American culture has "changed for the worse."

The reverse was true among blacks and Hispanics, with a majority of both groups -- 56 percent of blacks and 51 percent of Hispanics -- responding that American culture has "changed for the better" since the 1950s.

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International news

New leader of world's Anglicans is enthroned

Continue from page 1

His enthronement took place just two days after the new leader of the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics, Pope Francis, was inaugurated.

The pope sent a message of goodwill to Welby, saying he hoped to meet him soon and uphold the "fraternal" rapport between their Churches.

In his sermon, Welby said he wanted to foster closer ties with other Christians and heal splits within the Anglican communion which is deeply divided over the issue of women bishops.

"The Church transforms society when it takes the risks of renewal in prayer, of reconciliation and of confident declaration of the good news of Jesus Christ," he said.

"There is every possible reason for optimism about the future of Christian faith in our world and in this country."

Leaders from various other religions including Greek Orthodox, Muslims, Buddhists and Jews also attended the service.

Since officially becoming archbishop on February 4 in a ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral, Welby has not shied away from taking on the government, saying welfare reforms would harm vulnerable children.

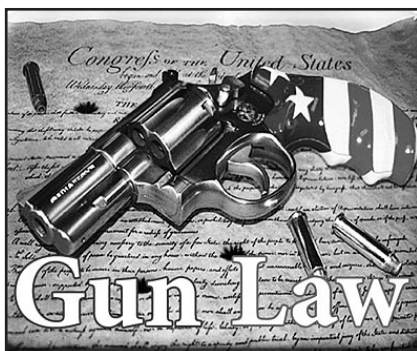
He is not a typical churchman. Married with five children, he rose to the top of the oil industry and gave up a six-figure salary to train as a priest.

Biden: White House will not rest on gun laws

NEW YORK (AFP) - The White House will keep pushing for tough new gun ownership laws despite lack of support in Congress, Vice President Joe Biden said yesterday, urging politicians to show "courage" for the sake of shooting massacre victims.

"I'm not going to rest and nor is the president until we do all of these things," Biden told a press conference in New York, where he joined Mayor Michael Bloomberg and bereaved parents from Newtown, where 20 elementary school children were shot dead in December.

"For all those who say we couldn't or shouldn't ban high capacity magazines, I ask them just one question: think about Newtown," Biden said in a brief, but emotional speech in



which he referred to the "beautiful little babies" killed in the school.

Senate Democrats have conceded that their proposed ban on assault rifles, like the gun used by a deranged intruder in the Newtown slaughter, has no way of passing in Congress.

Other measures under consideration -- and that may have

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The United Nations will investigate whether chemical weapons have been used in the Syria conflict, UN leader Ban Ki-Moon announced yesterday.

Ban said the "difficult mission" would focus on a Syrian government allegation that opposition rebels used chemical weapons in an attack this week.

France, Britain and the United States called on Ban to widen the inquiry to include accusations made against President Bashar al-Assad's forces.

The Syrian government accuses opposition rebels of using chemical weapons in Khan al-Assal near Aleppo on Tuesday and says that more than 30 people died. The opposition said the government staged the attack and also used banned chemical weapons in another incident near Damascus.

a better chance of being enacted -- include requiring background checks for all gun sales.

Gun control is one of the most politicized issues in a country rich in gun lore and where the Constitution is interpreted as guaranteeing the right of citizens to bear arms.

Opponents to any new gun laws, including the politically powerful National Rifle Association, argue that legal restrictions are the thin end of a wedge into constitutional rights and that criminals can in any case buy weapons illegally when needed.

However, Biden said Americans back "common sense" measures like background checks and alerts to the authorities when someone tries to amass weaponry.

UN to launch Syria chemical weapons inquiry

Ban said he would start a United Nations investigation into the possible use of chemical weapons in Syria "as soon as is practically possible."

The UN is working with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which oversees the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the World Health Organisation to set up the inquiry.

Ban said the mission would "look into the specific incident" raised by the Syrian government in a letter to the UN on Wednesday.

Britain and France called for a wider inquiry that includes accusations that chemical weapons were also used at Ataybah near Damascus and another incident at Homs on December 23.

"We judge it essential that all the pertinent facts concerning these allegations are swiftly investigated," said a letter sent by the French and British missions to the UN leader. It called for "an urgent investigation into all allegations."

UN spokesman Martin Nesirky said the French-British letter had been received. "The secretary general will review this suggestion as the mandate for the UN investigation is developed," he told reporters.

US ambassador Susan Rice said the United States also "supports any and all credible allegations of the possible use of chemical weapons in Syria."

US President Barack Obama has said the use of chemical weapons in the conflict could be a "game-changer."

"We demand the full cooperation of the Assad regime in particular, as well as Syrian authorities throughout the country, including by providing full and unfettered access to all relevant individuals and locations," Rice said in a statement.

Diplomats and UN officials have stressed that there is still no formal proof that chemical weapons have been used by either side.

Western intelligence agencies say that Syria has large stocks of sarin and other chemical weapons. It has never signed the chemical weapons convention overseen by the OPCW.

The treaty watchdog said in a statement released at its base in The Hague that the inquiry would require "careful planning" because of the security dangers. The organization said that Syria's failure to join the convention "remains a matter of serious concern."



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International News

White House hosts Cuban dissident blogger



Yoani Sanchez, center, meets with officials including Sens. Marco Rubio, left, and Bob Menendez.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House hosted award-winning dissident Cuban blogger Yoani Sanchez, on her first international trip in years, Wednesday after she met lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

"The United States looks forward to the day when all Cubans will have the opportunity to express themselves in public without fear and we will continue to support policies that encourage the free flow of information to, from, and within Cuba," National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said in a statement.

Sanchez met with White House staff, including Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs Ricardo Zuniga.

Throughout the day, Sanchez stayed true to form and tweeted about her meetings in Congress, where she also

picked up the State Department's International Women of Courage award, which she received in 2011.

She met with Republican Senator Marco Rubio and Democrat Robert Menendez, both Cuban Americans.

"Through her Generation Y blog, Yoani has given the rest of the world valuable insights into daily life in Cuba and, more importantly, given us a glimpse of what brave, Cuban democracy advocates like her can do with a little bit of Internet access," Rubio said.

Sanchez, named by Time magazine as one of the world's 100 most influential people in 2008, is largely unknown in her own country.

The 37-year-old is on a global tour after Cuba issued a reform in October that allows its citizens to travel abroad for the first time without a reviled and costly exit visa, and which also gave Sanchez her long sought-for permission to travel.

Each tweet sent by bloggers' supporters outside the communist island "is a virtual protective shield for this activist," Sanchez told students at Georgetown University.

"The challenge is for this virtual Cuba to converge with the real Cuba."

N. Korea threatens US bases in Japan

SEOUL (AFP) - North Korea on Thursday threatened strikes on US military bases in Japan and Guam, escalating tensions as suspicion deepened that Pyongyang was behind a cyber attack on South Korean broadcasters and banks.

The tone of the strike threat, attributed to a spokesman of the army's supreme command, blended with the torrent of warlike rhetoric spewed out by Pyongyang in recent weeks, but stood out for its precise naming of targets.

Military tensions on the Korean peninsula are at their highest level for years, with Pyongyang irate at the use of nuclear-capable US B-52 bombers and nuclear submarines in ongoing joint military drills with South Korea.

"The US should not forget that the Andersen base on Guam where B-52s take off and naval bases on the Japan mainland and Okinawa where nuclear-powered submarines

are launched, are all within the range of our precision target assets," the army spokesman said.

North Korea has successfully tested medium-range missiles that can reach Japan, but has no proven long-range missile capability that would allow it to hit targets on the US mainland or Guam -- more than 2,000 miles away.

Nevertheless, US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced last week that Washington had decided to bolster missile defences along the US west coast so as to "stay ahead of the threat" from the North Korean regime.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un had issued a more general threat to destroy US bases "in the operational theatre of the Pacific" on Wednesday, as he directed a drone strike exercise.

Still photographs broadcast on state television seemed to show what looked like a rudimentary drone being flown

into a mountainside target and exploding.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported last year that the North was developing unmanned strike aircraft using old US target drones imported from the Middle East.

Kim has personally overseen a host of rocket and artillery drills in recent weeks, mostly at frontline bases near the disputed maritime border with South Korea which has been a flashpoint for military clashes in the past.

Since the UN Security Council tightened sanctions on North Korea over its nuclear test last month, Pyongyang has issued a range of apocalyptic threats including "pre-emptive" nuclear strikes.

It also announced it was scrapping the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War, but its rhetoric has yet to be matched by any overt military action.



MEDELLIN (AFP) - : Colombian soldiers patrol at the Commune 13 -- one of the shantytowns with the highest rates of urban violence -- on March 20, 2013, in Medellin, Antioquia department, Colombia. So far this year, more than 335 people have been killed by urban conflict and more than 400 were displaced, due to gang disputes. To confront violence the government brought 1,000 new policemen.



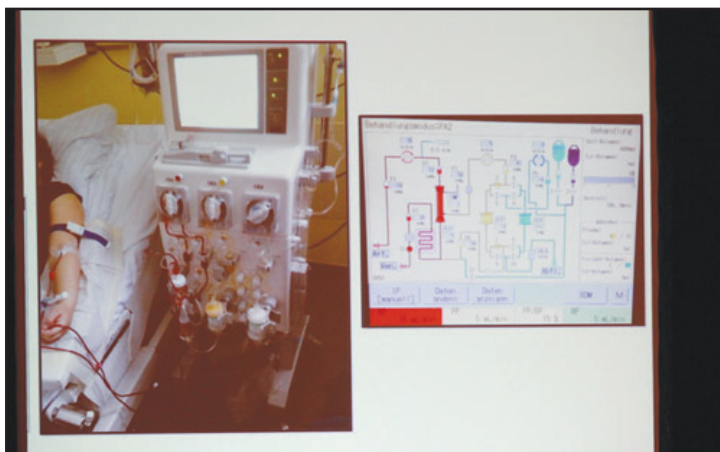
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Health & Living

Second successful congress on Nephrology held here



--Last Friday and Saturday Aruba was host to the second seminar on the Kidney with the participation of various experts from renowned specialized centers on the disease and treatment of the Kidneys from the US, Mexico and Curacao. Aruban Nephrologist, Dr. Romeo Kock gave a presentation titled "ESRD in Aruba: A Silent Epidemic?" The delegation at the seminar were professionals from the medical field including specialists, primary care doctors and nurses. The sessions were very well attended, which definitely reflects the seriousness of the situation and the interest of the medical professionals to be informed and educated about the treatment of patients and how to prevent and treat the disease of the kidneys.

Dr. Jaime Falconi, Hospital Director, said that the auditorium became silent during and after Dr. Kock's presentation. According to Dr. Martinez, Mexican specialist, the problem is not a silent epidemic but rather a scandalous problem.

Dr. Kock explained that up until 2 years ago, back in 2010, Aruba had two cases of new dialysis per month, but that has changed. In 2011 and 2012 we have seen a drastic increase. Our island now has 3 new cases of dialysis every month and the trend continues to rise. Many people are unaware of the fact that there are so many very sick people on Aruba who are receiving dialysis or who have had a kidney transplant (even persons working in the medical field). The situation is no longer a silent one, it is an epidemic, according to Dr. Kock.

They discussed various topics of interest during the congress, for example concerning experimental treatment for hypertension, which has not been completely accepted as yet; although important information that must be shared, according to Falconi.

Dr. Kock explained that about 80% of our population at a certain age becomes obese and that this is in direct relation to diabetes and hyperten-



sion. This may explain why we have reached this stage and what awaits us - this, he says, is very troubling. According to Dr. Kock and Dr. Falconi, physical activity, proper diet, living less stressful and making healthy choices are essential for good health. This is so for everyone without exception.

There is coming a time when the dialysis centers at the Hospital and at IMSAM are no longer sustainable and we will have to begin thinking out of the box. Perhaps we will have to motivate more patients to do their dialysis at home via the "peritoneale dialysis," according to Dr. Kock. This method

is different from the hemodialysis which takes place in our clinics. The reaction from patients doing dialysis at home is positive. It is a good alternative for which the patient need not have any fear to perform, says Dr. Kock.

In the final analysis, if we treat our body well it will function as it should, says Dr. Kock. Every person is responsible for his own health and if the patient knows that he is diabetic, has high blood pressure or has any of these diseases in his family, they must ensure that they do the blood tests and urine tests at least once per year. Don't wait until you feel symptoms, these tests are simple and essential and could save you the worst situation of having to be on dialysis or of getting a kidney transplant.

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Sci-Tech

Thai students set for mass tablet computer handout

BANGKOK (AFP) - Thailand plans to distribute about 1.7 million handheld computers to students and teachers this year in the world's largest handout of the devices for education, officials said.

Nine firms from countries including China, India, Germany and the Netherlands are set to join an online tender in April to supply the tablet computers, according to the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

With each tablet expected to cost roughly \$100, the total value of the orders looks set to be worth more than four billion baht (\$140 million).

They will be given to primary students aged about six years old as well as to middle-school students aged between

12 and 13, along with 54,000 tablets that will be given to teachers.

About 850,000 tablets were already given to students last year, supplied by China's Shenzhen Scope Scientific Development Co. at a cost of about about 2.2 billion baht (\$75 million).

Next year the government aims to distribute a further seven million tablets, according to the ICT ministry.

The tablets will remain the property of the schools for three years, during which time the students can take them home each day. After that the students will own them.

But the authorities are calling on teachers and parents to ensure that students do not stay glued to the screens for too long.

French workers waste an hour a day on surfing



PARIS (AFP) - French workers spend nearly one hour a day at the office surfing the Internet for non-professional uses, with Facebook and YouTube their favourite sites, according to a study published Wednesday.

The study found that on average French workers spent 57 minutes per day on the Internet for personal use, or 59 percent of the total time they use the Web.

Conducted by Olfeo, a firm which sells software that allows companies to filter and

secure Internet traffic, said the personal use of the Web by employees caused a 13.6 percent productivity loss to firms.

Olfeo found that upon their arrival to work French employees like to consult news sites and catch up on social networks.

During lunch hours they favour watching television episodes online, listening to the radio or playing online games.

Before heading home French workers check traffic and weather reports, or kill time on entertainment sites.

The study, conducted in 2012 based on 100 firms with 80,000 employees, found that French workers who stay at the office after 7 pm used the Internet to work.

The social networking site Facebook was the top website for personal traffic at French workplaces, followed by the video-sharing site YouTube.

Japan finds rich rare earth deposits on seabed: study

TOKYO (AFP) - Japanese researchers said Thursday they have found a rich deposit of rare earths on the Pacific seabed, with reports suggesting it could be up to 30 times more concentrated than Chinese reserves.

Mud samples taken from 5,800 metres (19,000 feet) below the waves contained highly concentrated amounts of the precious minerals, which are vital for high-tech manufacturing and used in products including wind turbines and iPods.

The proving of resources is significant for Japan, which currently relies largely on China, the source of around 90 percent of the world's supply of rare earths.

Manufacturers have complained in the past that Beijing restricts exports of the materials at times of tension.

"Rare earths are necessary for cutting-edge technologies. Japan faces an urgent task to secure stable supplies," said a statement by researchers from the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology and the University of Tokyo.

The samples, taken from the seabed near Minamitori island some 2,000 kilometres (1,250 miles) southeast of Tokyo, were 10 times more concentrated than that of mud collected from the seabed near Hawaii, the researchers said.

The concentration was 20 to 30 times higher than that from Chinese mines, Japanese media said.

Scientists believe the seabed contains about 6.8 million tonnes of the materials, the equivalent of 220 to 230 years worth of rare earths used in Japan.

But despite the desire to move away from dependence on China, the cost of extracting supplies from such a depth and in such hostile conditions may prove problematic, commentators said.

In its afternoon edition, the mass-selling Yomiuri Shimbun said there had been no successful commercial mining below 5,000 metres.

The researchers said they plan to continue their survey, which began in January, to further study rare earth resources and find out how extensive the deposits are.



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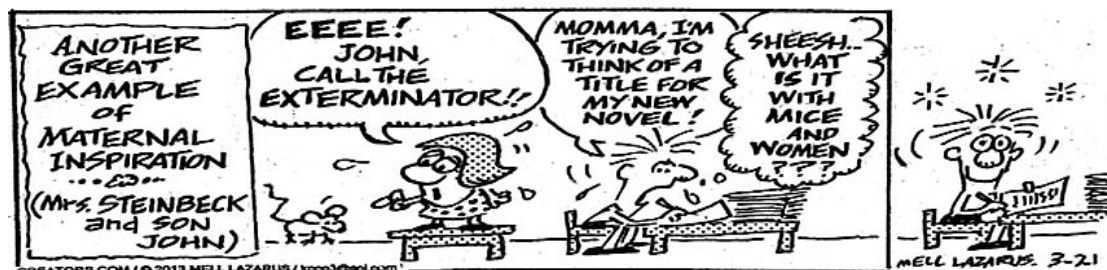
COMICS



PICKLES



MOMMA



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ACROSS

1. Advanced degs.
5. Former airline
8. ___-la-la
11. Taylor's preceder
12. Ascend
13. Strike
14. Navajo foe
15. Stance
16. "___ Man" (2 wds.)
17. Samuel's teacher
19. Father, in Spanish
21. Declines
25. Upper-classmen (abbr.)
26. Night before Christmas
27. Snooty one
29. Engrave with acid
32. ___ guitar
34. House wing
35. Telegram
36. Cut open
37. Muddle
39. Elongated fish
40. Drink champagne
42. Showed contempt
44. Sharpen a razor
46. Baseball's Griffey
47. Greek letter

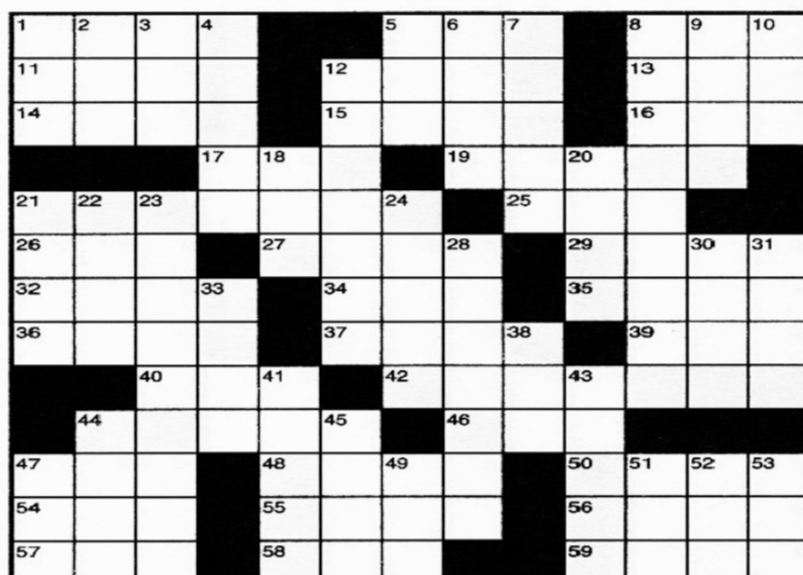
DOWN

48. Aggravate
50. Roosevelt coin
54. Charged atom
55. Clothed
56. Metallic deposits
57. Holiday party drink
58. Skirt bottom
59. Decline
9. Coating of ice
10. ___ loss (2 wds.)
12. Fisherman's lure
18. Bandleader Brown
20. Younger
21. Spiders' homes
22. Hockey rink shape
23. Opposing
24. Flies alone
28. Looked with surprise
30. Manitoba Indian
31. Embraced
33. Mix batter

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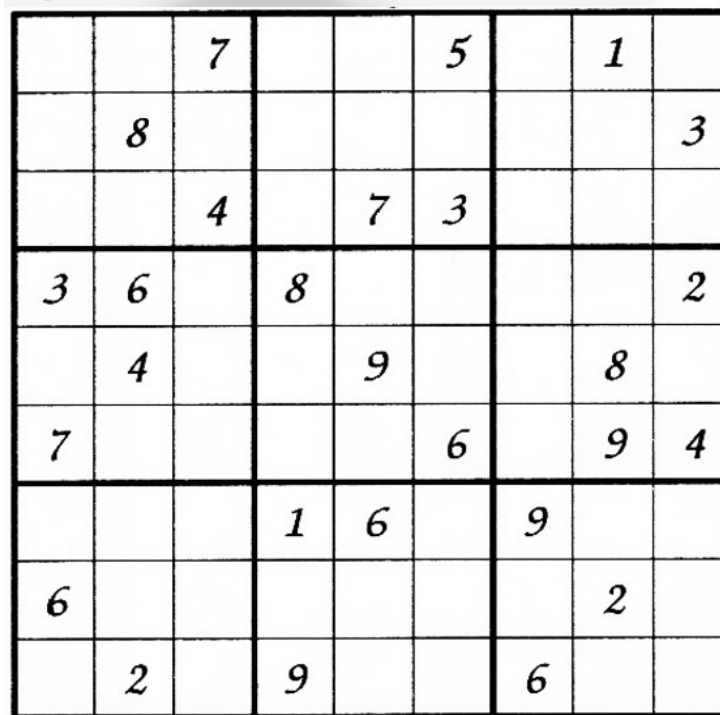
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SOLUTION

4	9	8	5	6	1	7	2	3
1	7	8	4	2	5	6	9	3
5	4	6	7	9	1	8	2	3
6	1	9	2	8	5	7	4	3
9	8	2	6	5	7	4	1	3
2	5	1	4	8	6	9	7	3
8	9	5	2	7	4	1	6	3
3	2	6	1	4	9	8	5	7
6	1	7	5	8	9	2	4	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Thieves blast into Brink's Netherlands depot: *media*

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Thieves used explosives to blast their way into a depot of the security firm Brink's in the Netherlands late Wednesday, local media reported, with the value of their haul unknown.

No employees of Brink's, which transports cash and valuables, were injured in the heist which happened around 11:00 pm (2200 GMT) at the US-based firm's building in Best, southern Netherlands, the Dutch ANP agency said citing police.

A helicopter joined 20 police cars at the scene of the crime when the alert was sounded, but the perpetrators had fled, local radio reported.

A search revealed a "suspicious object" which would be examined by explosives experts, police were cited as saying.

ANP also reported that a suspicious car had been stopped on a national highway not far from Best, but that no link had yet been made between the vehicle and the Brink's raid.

Last month, heavily armed robbers disguised as police made off with \$50 million (37 million euros) worth of diamonds in a spectacular heist on a Brink's armoured car at Brussels airport in neighbouring Belgium.

Eurozone 'ready to discuss' new Cyprus bailout

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Eurozone finance ministers extended a Cypriot olive branch late on Thursday, as their leader said currency partners were willing to work with Nicosia on new plans to make work a bailout that re-draws the island's stricken banking sector.

As the ministers huddled around their video screens, the Cyprus cabinet was in crisis session bidding to approve a "Plan B" after an earlier agreement with the EU and IMF collapsed amid anger over a weekend raid on savers that Dijssebloem says should have been understood as a "wealth tax" aimed principally at mainly Russian oligarchs' investments.

The European Central Bank has given Cyprus until Monday to find a way out of a crisis that has left Moscow furious over frozen government agency ac-

counts with banks in the offshore finance centre shut for a full week, the worst affected imposing radically lowered cash withdrawal limits.

With EU sources semi-openly floating a willingness to cut Nicosia loose if it doesn't clobber a finance industry Germany and others associate openly with the onward eurozone circulation of ill-gotten money-laundering gains, and a nervous crowd gathered outside the Cypriot parliament, Dijssebloem's remarks served as an inducement to lawmakers there.

However, in what analysts have warned is a dangerous game of Russian roulette, he also underlined that any new plan to fill a six-billion-euro hole and so unlock up to 10 billion in eurozone and IMF loans between now and 2016 would need to "respect" other demands already made by credi-

tors.

Rapid passing of legislation then provides a further hurdle in a race against time to prevent a collapse in the island's banking sector -- one heavily based on deposits rather than credit, and so potentially more vulnerable than other victims during the debt crisis to runs on weak banks.

Meanwhile ratings firm Standard & Poor's cut troubled Cyprus' sovereign credit rating by one notch yesterday citing "acute problems" in Cyprus's banking sector.

S&P lowered the rating to 'CCC' from 'CCC+' and warned the outlook for the rating was negative.

S&P said in a statement that neither Cyprus's government nor bank shareholders appeared capable to meet the pressing capital needs of its teetering banks.

Brazilian beermaker closes Venezuela operations



Ambev's Venezuelan division Brahma said its share of the market had dropped from nine percent to 0.9 percent over seven years, making it "unfeasible" to continue operations and preventing it from making necessary investments at its facilities.

The company began closing its operations on Monday.

Accounting representative Maira Mejias told a local newspaper that the lack of necessary funds "affected the condition of the facilities, machinery and equipment, creating hazardous conditions for plant workers' health and hygiene."

Ambev, one of the largest companies in the region, began its Venezuela operations in 1994. The Companhia de Bebidas das Americas is the exclusive bottler and distributor rights for Pepsi and Gatorade products in Brazil.

It operates in 16 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in Canada.

CARACAS (AFP) - Brazil's Ambev, the largest brewer in Latin America, will close its Venezuela operations after a prolonged slump in sales, the company said Wednesday.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

M	B	A	S	T	W	A	T	R	A
P	O	L	K	S	O	A	R	H	I
H	O	P	I	P	O	S	E	I	M
		E	L	I	P	A	D	R	E
W	O	R	S	E	N	S	S	R	S
E	V	E	S	N	O	B	E	T	C
B	A	S	S	E	L	L	W	I	R
S	L	I	T	R	O	I	L	E	E
	S	I	P	S	N	E	E	R	E
	S	T	R	O	P	K	E	N	
P	H	I	R	I	L	E	D	I	M
I	O	N	C	L	A	D	O	R	E
N	O	G	H	E	M	W	A	N	E

Sri Lanka to seize part of India oil depot after UN vote

COLOMBO (AFP) - Sri Lanka announced on Thursday it would repossess part of a strategic oil storage depot from a state-run Indian firm after Delhi supported international calls to probe war crimes on the island.

Information Minister Keliya Rambukwella said there were provisions to repossess tanks that were not being used by the Indian Oil Company's local unit, Lanka IOC, in the northeastern port of Trincomalee.

Rambukwella denied that the move to repossess the facilities, which were privatised in 2003, was in retaliation for India voting with the United States to censure Sri Lanka at the UN Human Rights Council on Thursday.

Lanka IOC chief Subodh Dakwale said he was unaware of government plans to take back some of the tanks at the Trincomalee tank farm.

"We are right now spending \$17 million to refurbish two tanks and we are quite unaware of the plan to take over some of the storage tanks,"

Dakwale told AFP.

The UNHRC adopted a resolution initiated by the United States demanding accountability for alleged war crimes during the Sri Lankan military's crushing of Tamil Tiger rebels in 2009.

Rights groups have said that up to 40,000 civilians were killed by government forces in the final months of fighting, a

charge denied by Sri Lanka.

India, home to millions of Tamils who share links with their counterparts in Sri Lanka, risks a further worsening in relations with its southern neighbour over the UNHRC resolution.

It has postponed scheduled defence cooperation talks with Sri Lanka originally scheduled for later this week.



MARIEL (AFP) - A Cuban worker slices Jaimanita stones in a quarry in Mariel, 50km west of Havana, on March 21, 2013. Cuban Marbles Enterprise export 20 percent of its production and the other 80 percent is used in the construction of Hotels and tourist resorts in Cuba



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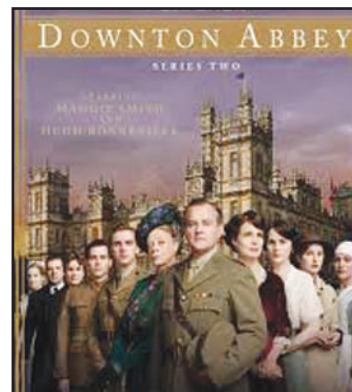
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British hit drama Downton Abbey leads way in TV exports



PARIS (AFP) - Britain in 2012 held on to its position as the world's second biggest exporter of television programmes after the US on the back of hit dramas such as Downton Abbey and Call the Midwife, a report said.

Talent shows such as the Dutch-originated The Voice, meanwhile, illustrated the continued huge popularity of reality television, according to the Television Year in the World report by audience researcher company Eurodata TV World-

wide.

Period drama Downton Abbey has been sold to over 100 countries with the third series attracting a record 8.2 million viewers on the US channel PBS (Public Broadcasting Service), it said.

Other programmes bolstering UK exports included the drama Mr Selfridge and detective series Midsomer Murders.

But despite the success of such programmes, the popularity of reality television continued to grow in 2012.

The format for The Voice was exported to 16 territories in 2012 from Vietnam to Turkey and Australia, compared to three in 2011.

The other most successful reality show formats were Got Talent, developed by British music mogul Simon Cowell, Strictly Come Dancing, originated in the UK and remade in the US as Dancing with the Stars, followed by Masterchef (UK).

'Earth Hour' - evolves into springboard for wider action

PARIS (AFP) - From Sydney Harbour Bridge, Buckingham Palace and the Brandenburg Gate to the Burj Khalifa tower, the Empire State Building, the Taj Mahal and Table Mountain, some of the world's greatest landmarks will briefly darken on Saturday night for Earth Hour, a campaign now becoming a broader vehicle for green activism.

Earth Hour originated in Sydney in 2007 with an appeal to people and businesses to turn off their lights for an hour to heighten awareness about climate change, driven by carbon-emitting fossil fuels.

The annual switch-off is now being followed in locations in three-quarters of the world's nations and has the potential to touch hundreds of millions of lives, say its organisers.

Promoted through social media, Earth Hour has also mutated in some countries into a potent tool to lobby on local issues unconnected with global warming, they add.

Switch-off events this Saturday at the local time of 8:30 pm are planned in more than 150 countries, including for the first time the Palestinian territories, Tunisia, Galapagos, Suriname, French Guiana, St. Helena and Rwanda.

Newcomers to the campaign include Copenhagen's



Little Mermaid, the Statue of David in Florence and Cape Town's Table Mountain, which in 2011 joined a list of the "New Seven Wonders of Nature".

"Last year, Earth Hour was followed in 7,000 communities, an increase of about 30 percent over 2011," said Andy Ridley, co-founder of the project launched by WWF.

"The biggest area of growth has been the Asia-Pacific, the economic engine of the planet, where wherever you go now, people are living with the problems of environmental damage," Ridley said in a phone interview from Singapore.

"If you're in a big city in China, you may well be going

to work wearing a face mask (against air pollution), or if you are in the Philippines, you and your family may well have been affected by a super-typhoon."

Ridley added: "What we are finding is that environment issues may be perceived differently in the big cities of Asia compared with how they are perceived in Europe or the States. They may not be perceived as exclusively green issues. They are seen as issues that are damaging your lifestyle and potentially threatening your family."

In Japan, where floodlights will be turned off on Saturday at the capital's signature Tokyo Tower, campaigners are intertwining Earth Hour with re-

membrance of the March 2011 mega-quake and tsunami, which unleashed a nuclear disaster at Fukushima.

In Russia, activists last year harnessed the success of Earth Hour to secure 100,000 signatures for a petition for a law to protect sea areas around oil exploration sites, says WWF.

Uganda created the first "Earth Hour forest" of 2,700 hectares (10.4 square miles) of cleared land, which greens plan to fill with half a million trees.

Campaigners in Argentina are hoping that this year's event will provide traction to protect a 3.4-million-hectare (13,100-square mile) marine zone.

As it grows in visibility,

Earth Hour is also becoming a target, with critics saying it is little more than token, encourages smugness about combating climate change and ignores the needs of development.

"India observes on average eight Earth hours a day," tweeted VictorTango@airkatana, a reference to the country's notorious power outages. More than 400 million Indians still lack access to mains electricity, according to the World Bank.

Ridley said no figures existed for the overall amount of energy saved by Earth Hour. But the brief switch-off, he argued, encouraged many people to do more to curb waste and think of the environment.

Leading French climate scientist Jean Jouzel said Earth Hour at least reminded people of the crisis posed by carbon emissions, which each year scale new peaks while UN talks for curbing them mark time.

"Does Earth Hour encourage self-satisfaction? Are its results limited? I would say 'yes' to both," Jouzel said.

"But if it's a toss-up between doing nothing and doing something that is not perfect but is still something very visible, I think the answer is: do something. In fact, we need more action of this kind."

5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48, with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda,



Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of

fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Sport

Tennis: Li makes winning return to WTA tour

MIAMI (AFP) - China's Li Na made a winning return to WTA action on Thursday, beating Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-1 in her second-round opener at the Miami WTA and ATP Masters hardcourt tournament.

Li had been sidelined for seven weeks after hurting her left ankle in the final of the Australian Open, where she fell to Victoria Azarenka.

"I wasn't nervous today before the match, but I was excited," Li said. "For the last six or seven weeks I haven't played any tournaments so I was happy with the result and to win my first match after such a long time."

Li, ranked fifth in the world and seeded fifth in a field headed by world No. 1 Serena Williams, didn't drop her serve, saving both break points she faced in the emphatic 67-minute match.

She was buoyed by a vocal contingent of fans, something she wasn't expecting.

"There were a lot of fans there to support me today, I was like 'Wow!'" she said.

"My game was pretty good. I followed the plan of what I should do. I just had to believe in myself that I could do it."



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Golf: New Chinese prodigy, 12, to smash age record

BEIJING (AFP) - Twelve-year-old Chinese golf prodigy Ye Wocheng ensured he will smash the record for youngest player at a European Tour event when he came through a qualifying tournament.

The Dongguan schoolboy was able to card a triple-bogey eight and still finish third with a two-day score of two-under-par 142 at Chengdu's Wolong Valley Country Club, punching his ticket to the Volvo China Open in May.

Ye follows Masters-bound Guan Tianlang and Florida-based Andy Zhang, both 14, to become part of the group of young stars emerging from China.

Guan holds the current European Tour age record after he played last year's China Open in Tianjin at 13 years and 177 days. Hong Kong's Jason Hak became the tour's youngest cut-maker, aged 14 and 304 days, at the 2008 Hong Kong Open.

Despite international victories by the likes of veterans Liang Wencong and Zhang Lianwei, China has only three players in the world's top 650.

TAMPA -- Derek Jeter has played his last preseason game with the New York Yankees this spring, but that does not preclude the 38-year-old shortstop from being on the field when the club opens its regular season against the Boston Red Sox on April 1. It does, however, preserve the right of the Yankees to place him on the disabled list, backdated to March 22, if it's determined Jeter needs more time to recover from the setback he experienced this week while rehabbing his surgically repaired left ankle.

confounding hopes the country's golfers would quickly make a big impact on the sport.

However, China's teen and pre-teen players are now leading the charge, with Andy Zhang setting the trend when he became the youngest to tee off at the US Open last year.

In April, Guan will attract more headlines when he becomes the youngest to play the US Masters, lowering the 2010 record of Italy's Matteo Manassero, who was 16 at the time, by a distance.

For Guan, the sky is the limit as he told AFP he dreamed of becoming the first player to achieve the legendary 'grand slam' of golf.

After Guan's appearance at the April 11-14 showpiece at Augusta National, Ye will hog the limelight when he sets the European Tour's new age record at the China Open on May 2.

Ye is already known internationally after he won the US Kids World Junior Championship in San Diego in 2010 and 2011 and finished runner-up last year. He also holds the tournament record of 12 under par.



NCAA Tournament:



Bandja Sy of the New Mexico State Aggies goes up against the Saint Louis Billikens

SAN JOSE, Dwayne Evans scored 24 points, Cody Ellis added 12 points and fourth-seeded Saint Louis overwhelmed New Mexico State 64-44 in the second round of the NCAA tournament Thursday.

Playing through the death of Rick Majerus in December, Saint Louis reached another mark for its late coach. The Billikens (28-6) eclipsed the 1988-89 team's school record of 27

victories.

Evans shot 11 of 16 and finished a point shy of his career best to propel Saint Louis past 7-foot-5 New Mexico State freshman Sim Bhullar. The Billikens held Bhullar to four points, 11 rebounds and three blocks.

Bandja Sy had 17 points and nine rebounds for the 13th-seeded Aggies (24-11), who shot just 28 percent.



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NBA: Heat's win streak hits 24 in scary LeBron homecoming



CLEVELAND(AFP) - Defending champion Miami's epic win streak, the second-longest in league history, rose to 24 games Wednesday but

survived a scare from NBA weakling Cleveland in a homecoming for LeBron James.

Down by 27 points in the third quarter, the Heat rallied to defeat Cleveland 98-95 thanks to a stunning effort from James, who scored 25 points, grabbed 12 rebounds, made 10 assists and hit two key-free throws with 4.7 seconds to play.

The game was the first for James at the home of his former club since he won an NBA title with the Miami team he joined after spurning the Cavaliers -- a true homecoming since he grew up and was a high school star in nearby Akron.

"This is a gut performance for our team," James said. "I'm happy my teammates were able to come through for me tonight. This was a big one."

The start of the game was delayed for 45 minutes by a coolant leak on the main scoreboard, adding to the intense atmosphere surrounding the return of a hero now reviled by those same fans who once treasured his every move.

"It's tough when you are ready to go and you have a 45-minute wait," James said. "It's difficult but we are trained professionals. We have to be ready for anything."

Aruba National swim team

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discipline and sacrifice of the athletes, with support of the parents, and a structured plan are the road to success in any sport," Coach Espinosa concluded.

Next week the team will be traveling to Jamaica to compete in the CARIFTA championships.

The CARIFTA Aquatics Championship is an annual, age-group aquatics championship for the Caribbean. It has been held since 1985, and is similar in form/origin to the track & field/athletics event: the CARIFTA Games. The event is held under the auspices of CANOC, the Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees.

Last year Aruba finished in fourth place overall among the 14 participating islands in the Caribbean. Aruba will be traveling with nearly their full selection team, with the expectation this will better their position.

THE MORNING NEWS and the Aruban community wish to congratulate our swim team for a job well done at CONSANAT and wish them great success at CARIFTA!

Many coaches and trainers of different countries were impressed with the performance of the athletes representing our island, which are selected

from only a total of 25 swimmers, compared to the thousands of athletes the larger nations have from which to select a team. Perseverance,

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Aruba National swim team attains high status during international competitions

-- A triumphant team representing Aruba returned this week from Valparaiso, Chile after participating at the CONSANAT Championships. Minister of Health & Sports, Dr. Richard Visser joined family and friends to receive the six athletes at the airport.

For the first time in Aruba's history of participating in international swim competitions, a total of 8 medals were obtained: 3 gold; 1 silver and

4 bronze. Aruba has a long history of being rated among the top 8 competitors of South America.

Mikel Schreuders swam away with 2 medals: 1 gold and 1 silver. Ally Ponson became the first female athlete champion in the South American region by winning gold; she also won 2 bronze medals. Tyreke Wernet also won 2 bronze medals. Team members Ginayla Arends,

Daniella van den Berg y Jordy Groters positioned themselves among the top rated swimmers of the South American region.

"History has been made: In the sport of swimming, our athletes have attained a higher level proficiency. This is something to applaud, and the whole community should acknowledge how hard these sports federations are working, the dedication of the par-

ents, and the sacrifices of the athletes and CEMEDAR, which give medical assistance in high impact sports. CEMEDAR's support proved that by working thru a structured program in a professional team, one can achieve desired results," said Minister Dr. Visser.

Head coach Ismael Santiesteban Espinosa explained that the athletes have been in preparation for quite some

time. "Four years ago we started with the pre-selection where the entire team of coaches of Aruba Dolphins and Stingray worked together to achieve this great victory. This is teamwork: athletes, parents, federation and government. We can be proud to have established our place on South American level of competition.

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